

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 06154 280749Z
ACTION EB-08

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TAGS: EFIN, TU
SUBJECT: IMF/WORLD BANK ANNUAL MEETING

REF: A) STATE 203590, B) ANKARA 5888

1. TURKISH DELEGATION TO IMF/WORLD BANK ANNUAL MEETING
TENTATIVELY WILL INCLUDE:
FROM THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE:
MINISTER ZIYA MUEZZINOGLU
UNDERSECRETARY VURAL GUCSAVAS
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE TREASURY ISMET ERDEM
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE TREASURY FOR FOREIGN FINANCING
AYSEL OYMEN

FROM THE CENTRAL BANK
GOVERNOR TAYYAR SADIKLAR
DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR FOREIGN EXCHANGE YAVUZ CANEVI

2. TURKISH OFFICIALS HAVE NOT YET DECIDED WHICH ISSUES
THEY MAY RAISE EITHER IN THE PLENARY SESSION OR BILATERALLY
WITH THE U.S. DELEGATION. THE OUTCOME OF TURKEY'S CURRENT
DISCUSSIONS WITH THE IMF WILL PROBABLY HAVE AN IMPACT ON
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PAGE 02 ANKARA 06154 280749Z

THE ISSUES THAT THE TURKISH DELEGATION MAY RAISE. IF TURKEY
DOES NOT QUALIFY TO DRAW THE SECOND TRANCHE OF ITS IMF STANDBY
CREDIT, IT WILL BE IN A MOOD CRITICAL OF THE USEFULNESS OF THE
IMF TO LDC'S IN BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS DIFFICULTIES. IN THIS
CASE, WE CAN ALSO EXPECT THAT TURKEY WILL CONTINUE TO PRESSURE
THE US TO INTERVENE IN ITS BEHALF WITH THE IMF.

3. US DELEGATION SHOULD BE AWARE THAT NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING US-TURKISH DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT AND US USE OF BASES IN TURKEY MAY HAVE BEGUN BY THE TIME OF THE ANNUAL MEETING. IN THAT EVENT, THE TURKS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY WANT TO USE THE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED BY THE IMF MEETING TO REITERATE THEIR VIEWS OF THE INSEPARABILITY OF THE DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES FROM THE ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP.

4. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NO INDICATION YET THAT FINANCE MINISTER MUEZZINOGLU WILL REQUEST A BILATERAL MEETING WITH SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL; IN VIEW OF FACT THAT SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE DID NOT PERMIT MEETING WHEN MUEZZINOGLU WAS IN WASHINGTON IN AUGUST, WE CONSIDER IT LIKELY THAT FINANCE MINISTER WILL ASK FOR A MEETING. THE STATUS OF BOTH THE TURKISH-IMF AND THE TURKISH-US NEGOTIATIONS MAY MAKE SUCH A BILATERAL DESIRABLE FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, ALSO.

5. TWO ADDITIONAL FACTORS MAY COMPLICATE COMPOSITION OF TURKISH DELEGATION:

--ON SEPTEMBER 11, THE CENTRAL BANK GENERAL ASSEMBLY WILL MEET TO BEGIN THE PROCESS OF REMOVING CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR SADIKLAR FROM HIS POSITION. (REF B)

--THE REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) IS ATTEMPTING TO CALL THE TURKISH PARLIAMENT INTO SPECIAL SESSION ON SEPTEMBER 18 TO CONSIDER A NUMBER OF URGENT PIECES OF LEGISLATION, INCLUDING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 ANKARA 06154 280749Z

TURKEY'S TAX REFORM BILL. THE FINANCE MINISTER MAY HAVE TO STAY IN TURKEY TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PARLIAMENTARY SESSION, MAKING HIM UNABLE TO ATTEND THE MEETING IN WASHINGTON.

6. EMBASSY WILL UPDATE INFORMATION ON TURKISH PLANS AS THEY BECOME APPARENT.
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